

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 EB-07 FEAE-00 NEAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 /088 W

----- 006011

R 231330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 2806

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1443

DEPT PLEASE PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE VIENNA ATTACK ON
LIBYAN POLICY

REF: TRIPOLI 1442

1. THE ATTACK ON OPEC HEADQUARTERS AND THE MURDER OF
A LIBYAN OFFICIAL BY TERRORISTS WHOSE POLITICAL LINE
MIRRORS HIS OWN IS A SEVERE EMBARRASSMENT OF QADHAFI.
THE MURDERED OFFICIAL, YOUSSEF IZMIRLI, WAS A MEMBER
OF A PROMINENT TRIPOLI FAMILY (ONE BROTHER IS AT THE
CENTRAL BANK AND ANOTHER IN BUSINESS), AND HIS DEATH
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IS SENDING SHOCK WAVES THROUGHOUT HIS ASSOCIATES IN

THIS CITY. QADHAFI AND JALLUD MUST HAVE KNOWN
IZMIRLI WELL THEMSELVES, AND CANNOT BE PERSONALLY
INDIFFERENT TO HIS DEATH.

2. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A WORD OF CRITICISM
OF HIS MURDERERS IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA.
ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS "FEDAYEEN",
A VERY POSITIVE WORD, AND IT IS IMPLIED THAT IZMARLI'S
DEATH WAS A REGRETTABLE BY-PRODUCT OF AN OTHERWISE
ADMIRABLE OPERATION.

3. THIS INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION MAY WELL GIVE WAY
LATER TO SOMETHING MORE CRITICAL AS THE PRESSURE OF
EVENTS EASES AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINKS IN. WE
RECALL THAT AFTER THE ROME AIRPORT MASSACRE OF
DECEMBER 1973, WHICH WAS TRACED TO LIBYA, JALLUD
STOOD UP IN PUBLIC AND FORMALLY CONDEMNED AIRPLANE
HIJACKING. THIS HAS BEEN THE LIBYAN POSITION EVER
SINCE. IT IS AT LEAST TO BE HOPED THAT THE DEATH OF
YOUSSEF WILL HAVE A SIMILAR EFFECT ON QADHAFI AND
COMPANY BY BRINGING HOME TO THEM THE COSTS OF
POLITICAL TERRORISM. THE FACT THAT THE TERRORISTS
RETURNED TO ALGERIA AFTER HAVING APPARENTLY BEEN DENIED
SANCTUARY HERE IS A GOOD SIGN.

4. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTS THAT REPS OF CONCERNED
COUNTRIES; I.E., AUSTRIA, SAUDIA ARABIA, ALGERIA,
KUWAIT, ETC, WHO WERE AT TRIPOLI AIRPORT WHILE PLANE
WAS HERE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
LIBYAN AUTHORITIES HEADED BY PRIMIN JALLUD AND
MINISTER FOR RCC AFFAIRS, BIN AMER. THEY WERE MOVED
OUT OF VIP AREA AND INTO SEPARATE ROOM AND RECEIVED
NO BRIEFINGS FROM LAR AUTHORITIES. THEY LEARNED PLANE
HAD DEPARTED (FOR ALGIERS) WITH NOISE OF TAKEOFF.
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